

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /061 W

-----250419Z 031228 /64

R 250300Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8534

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 1818

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TH, BR

SUBJ: THAI-BURMESE RELATIONS

REF: (A) BKK 1712 (B) BKK 1679 (C) BKK 1655

1. BANGKOK POST ON JAN 22 CARRIED ANOTHER STORY ABOUT INCURSION OF BURMESE TROOPS ACROSS THAI BORDER AT CHIANG RAI PROVINCE (REFS A AND B). REPORT SAID SOME 600 SHAN UNITED ARMY TROOPS ALONG WITH 200 BURMESE GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAD CLASHED ON JAN 19 INSIDE THAI TERRITORY LEAVING "A LARGE NUMBER" OF GUB TROOPS KILLED AND WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO REPORT, BPP HAD BEEN TOLD TO NEGOTIATE THE RETURN OF BOTH GUB AND "REBEL" TROOPS, AND, IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED, "PUSH" BURMESE TROOPS BACK ACROSS BORDER. THIRD ARMY HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ALERTED TO ASSIST BPP IF NEEDED, BUT, ACCORDING TO NEWS ARTICLE, HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE MFA INITIATE GOVERNMENT TALKS WITH BURMESE TO INSURE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THAI TERRITORY.

2. JAN 22 ARTICLE WAS FOLLOWED NEXT DAY IN POST BY REPORT THAT KHUN SA (CHANG CHI-FU) WAS ENGAGED IN THE
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BATTLE WITH GUB TROOPS. ARTICLE GAVE HISTORY OF CHANG CHI-FU'S RISE TO POWER IN OPIUM TRADE AND CALLED HIM "THE KINGPIN OF THE NARCOTICS TRADE IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE". POST ALSO CARRIED REPORT THAT PARTIAL PULLOUT OF BURMESE AND SUA TROOPS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, BUT THIRD ARMY AND BPP WILL STILL ON FULLALERT PENDING THEIR COMPLETE WITH-

DRAWAL.

3. THAI-LANGUAGE PRESS HAS GIVEN NO PUBLICITY TO EVENT, BUT TWO CHINESE-LANGUAGE DAILIES HAVE CARRIED STORIES PARALLEL-ING THOSE OF THE POST. ARTICLE IN CHING HUA OF JAN 24 ALSO QUOTED DEPUTY CHIANG RAI PROVINCIAL POLICE COMMANDER AS SAYING THAT TROOPS HAD WITHDRAWN BY JAN 22 AND THAT BECAUSE BORDER DEMARCATION WAS VERY UNCLEAR, HE HIMSELF OFTEN WAS UNCERTAIN JUST WHERE BORDER LAY.

4. COMMENT: ON THE EVE OF THE DEPARTURE FOR GOODWILL MISSION TO BURMA BY GENERAL KRIANGSAK AND FM UPPADIT THERE IS NOT RPT NO INDICATION THAT THAI WILL CHANGE VISIT SCHEDULE OR CANCEL IT BECAUSE OF BORDER INCIDENT. EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK PROBABLY WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TOPIC OF CONVERSATION FOR DISCUSSIONS. AS MENTIONED IN REF C, THAI HAD REPORTEDLY INTENDED TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ISSUE OF THAI FISHERMEN BEING HELD IN BURMESE JAILS. THAI-LANGUAGE DAILY CHAO THAI ON JAN 23 QUOTED THAI AMBASSADOR IN RANGOON AS SAYING THAT BURMESE HAD RELEASED SOME 32 FISHERMEN ON JAN 20 AND HAD DECIDED TO RELEASE AN ADDITION 44 BY JAN 27. MFA OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED THE REPORT.
WHITEHOUSE

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